

2026 Alvaston Hall Holiday



Despite a drizzly start, 80 ladies set off for Alvaston Hall in high spirits for what proved to be a wonderful trip.

The group enjoyed a stop in Shrewsbury, followed by day visits to both Chester and Liverpool. In Liverpool, some ladies took in the sights from an open-top bus tour around the city, while others enjoyed exploring the famous Beatles memorabilia tour.

With good food, great company and plenty of laughter, everyone had a thoroughly enjoyable time.

Plans are already underway for next year's holiday, with details to be available at the ACM.



The Beatles made out of Jellybeans



"Pauline Wilson celebrated her 80th while we were there so we decorated her dining table with balloons. A few of us came across a very nice wine bar in Chester. We found a motorbike in the hotel so obviously had to sit on it!" Springbrook & Scraftoft WI

<p>Federation Chairman Glenice Wignall glenicewignall@lrfwi.org</p>	<p>Federation Treasurer Mary Hobbs maryhobbs@lrfwi.org</p>	<p>Federation Secretary Tina Lee fedsec@lrfwi.org</p>	<p>Office Manager/ Accounts Lois McKinder wihouse@lrfwi.org</p>	<p>Finance finance@lrfwi.org</p>
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Leicestershire & Rutland Federation of Women's Institutes

incorporated in England and Wales as a Company limited by Guarantee No. 02769771 Charity Reg No. 1016 766

WI House, 135 Loughborough Road, Leicester, LE4 5LQ

Tel: 0116 2661342 Email: wihouse@lrfwi.org

Opening hours: Mon-Wed 9.30am—2.30pm

www.leicestershire-and-rutland.thewi.org.uk or scan QR code

Find us on Facebook: Leicestershire & Rutland Federation of WIs



From the Board



Dear Members

We warmly encourage all members to join us for our Annual Council Meeting on **28th March 2026**. Tickets will be sent out to WIs with this newsletter so please look out for yours. It promises to be an enjoyable and informative event, and we are very much looking forward to seeing both our members and guest speakers on the day.

There will be plenty to explore, with stalls from each committee, yearbooks and stationery available, our monthly draw, holiday forms, and a variety of merchandise stalls for a little shopping too. We hope as many of you as possible will come along and make it a wonderful day for our WI community.

Glenice Wignall

Chairman

Leicestershire & Rutland Federation of WI

From the House



A reminder to all members that WI House is open **Monday to Wednesday, 9.30am – 2.30pm**, and members are very welcome to call in and make use of the facilities during these times. Whether you need assistance, resources, or simply a friendly face, we are here to help.

Please also note that **emergency contact details are now required for all event bookings**. Our updated booking form is available to download from the website. Alternatively, you can email wihouse@lrfwi.org and we will be happy to send you a copy.

We look forward to welcoming you to WI House soon.

Thank you

Membership Committee

The LRFWI Membership Committee is responsible for assisting WIs with any help they require. I hope you find the following items useful. Mandy Cutler, Membership Committee Chair.

Officers' Training for Presidents and Secretaries—Saturday 18th April 2026

Advisers are running two separate training sessions – one for Presidents and one for Secretaries – on **Saturday 18th April**, **11.00am – 1.00pm** at WI House.

We will be discussing key aspects of the role. And it will be an opportunity to share ideas and concerns with others doing the same job.

Please contact your WI Secretary or email wihouse@lrfwi.org with a booking form and pay by BACS by **27th March 2026**. Participating WIs will be charged £5 with a maximum of 2 members attending.

Federation Quiz 2026 – Friday 3rd July



£7 per person – teams of four.

Are you up for a challenge? Will your general knowledge help you to reign supreme? Then gather together members, friends and family and enter a team at one of the four venues in this year's Federation Quiz.

ARET Centre Loddington LE7 9XE

Botcheston Village Hall LE9 9FF

Swinford Village Hall LE17 6AZ

Thorpe Acre Church Hall LE11 4LF

7pm for 7.30pm. Each team must have 2 WI members, the event is open to non-members, male and female. Light refreshments included. Bring your own drinks if you wish.

If you would like to book for this event, please **contact your WI secretary** or email wihouse@lrfwi.org with a booking form and pay by BACS. Please state clearly the venue you wish to book and if you have any accessibility requirements.

Access to My WI

The My WI website has moved over to a new login system. Following this change, whilst some members have accessed My WI without any issues, others have not been so lucky!

So here is some information I hope you will find useful - should you need it.

How to access My WI

My WI is either accessible from the **NFWI website**. On the top right hand side of the home page you will see a link to My WI.

Or you can type **mywi.thewi.org.uk** into your search engine. (This will take you directly to the site).

Reset your password

You need to reset your password the first time you login. You will find a help guide.

Problems?

If you're still unable to access the site after resetting your password, please use **'Contact Us'** on this link:

<https://mywi.thewi.org.uk/>

Alternatively email - mywi@thewi.org.uk and a member of the Digital Team will contact you.

N.B. MCS - You will need to use your new password to access this system as well.

Finance and House Management Committee

The Finance and House Committee is delighted to welcome back Rosemary Heyes. We are very pleased she has rejoined the committee and look forward to working with her once again, benefiting from her experience and continued commitment to the WI.

Subscriptions 2026-27

The National Federation of Women's Institutes (NFWI) Board of Trustees has set the membership subscription for the 2026/27 membership year at **£54.00**.

The distribution of the 2026-27 subscription will be:

Payments will be due from members in **April 2026**.

Flexibility Policy

WIs can apply the flexibility policy to their 2026/27 subscription. This means they can charge the full amount of the WI portion, reduce their portion, or waive the WI portion of the subscription entirely.

Multi Membership (formerly Dual)

Multi members will pay the WI portion only to their second WI. If the WI is not utilising the flexibility policy, this will be 27.10. There is no pro-rata rate for multiple membership, and the set fee will remain payable at any time during the year.

Leisure Committee

The Leisure Committee will be at the Annual Council Meeting, so please do come along and say hello. We'll be sharing details of our exciting events planned for 2026 and would love to hear your ideas and suggestions for future activities — your input helps us create a programme that everyone can enjoy.

Our first trip to the Bell Foundry was thoroughly enjoyed by those who attended. We have two more dates scheduled: 18th February (now full) and 3rd March. If there is enough interest, the committee would be happy to arrange a fourth date.

Arts and Crafts Committee

The Annual Meeting isn't far away and the committee will be there to inspire. Come along and say hello.

Following last year, Clare has been out and about around the county doing classes at meetings Christmas Cards, Decoupage Boxes, Felt flowers and more. We have confirmed the date of our next **Dabble Day 18th April** at the Mary Forryan Centre, Hinckley. If you have any other ideas for crafty events do let us know, we're always ready to help.



We are also running an individual competition. Create a card inspired by The British Hedgerow. So get out your favourite medium and get crafting for submission on the day!

Keep eye out for the Lampshade Workshop flyer coming soon!

Public Affairs Committee

The Public Affairs Committee would like to thank all members who took part in voting for this year's resolutions. We can confirm that the votes from Leicestershire and Rutland Federation have now been submitted to National.

The results from our Federation are as follows:

- **Accessible public toilet facilities to promote dignity, health, and social inclusion – 672**
-
- **Action on women's homelessness – 450**
-
- **Every child needs a friend – 293**
-
- **Nearer to Nature – 139**
-
- **Love Your Vulva – Self checking is your best defence against vulval cancer – 134**
-

This gives a total of 1,688 votes cast. Thank you to everyone who made their voice heard.

Members of the Public Affairs Committee will also be at the ACM and look forward to seeing you there.

Fundraising Committee

The Fundraising Committee is excited about our upcoming Cream Tea and Motown event. With 72 members already booked, it's clear this has been a very popular event, and we're delighted to see so much interest. We hope everyone attending has a fantastic time!

Our Spring Lunch flyer has also just been released, and the menu looks absolutely delicious. Be sure to book your place soon to avoid disappointment, as we expect spaces to fill quickly.

Annual Council Meeting 2026



The Annual Council Meeting promises to be a busy and enjoyable day for all members. The first 2027 holiday forms will be released, the monthly draw will be renewed, and there will be raffles, stationery, yearbooks, competitions, shopping stalls and committee stalls to browse and enjoy. We are delighted to welcome a fantastic line-up of speakers: **Adam Henson**, well known farmer, author and television presenter from *Countryfile*, who will share insights into British farming and rural life; **Heartwize**, who will speak about community heart screening and the

importance of early detection in saving lives; and the **Lord Lieutenant of Leicestershire**, who will join us to highlight the role of the Lieutenancy in supporting local communities and recognising outstanding service. It's set to be an informative and inspiring event – we look forward to seeing you there.



Events—What's On?

2026:

Tuesday 3rd March— A Guided Tour of Bell Foundry, Loughborough—£16

Tuesday 10th March—Faith Visit, Greek Orthodox Church, Leicester—£10

Tuesday 17th March—Mental First Aid Champion Training Course, Hinckley—free of charge

Saturday 28th March—Annual Meeting, Leicester Grammar School LE8 9FL

Tuesday 14th April—Treasure Hunt, The Square Market Bosworth CV13 0LF—£8

Wednesday 15th April— (Physical) First Aid Course for adults, Our Lady of Victories Catholic Church, 1 Fairfield Rd, LE16 9QQ - Free

Thursday 16th April— Treasure Hunt, The Square Market Bosworth CV13 0LF—£8

Saturday 18th April—Officers' Training, WI House, Leicester £5 (max of two per WI)

Saturday 18th April—Spring Dabble Day, Mary Forrayn Centre, St Peters Catholic Church, Leicester Rd, LE10 1LW, £20

Thursday 23rd April—Speakers Showcase, Leicester —£2.50

Saturday 25th April—Spring Lunch, Devonshire Place, Leicester —£34

Sunday 9th May—Physical First Aid Course, Uppingham—free of charge

Thursday 14th May—Physical First Aid Course, East Goscote—free of charge

Wednesday 27th May—National Holocaust Centre & Museum—£30

Thursday 11th June— Physical First Aid Course, Ashby Baptist Church, 4 Brook Street, LE65 1HA.—Free of charge

Tuesday 16th June— Mental First Aid Champion Training Course, Methodist Church, Northgate, Oakham, LE15 6FH, Free of charge

Annual Meeting Competitions & closing dates 2026:

A reminder of the closing date for the 2026 ACM Competitions. All completed entry slips must be received at WI House by **Friday 13th March 2026** for:

Individual Adult Cookery competition (honey cake)

Individual Adult Cookery competition (preserve)

Children's Cookery competition ("honey cookies")

Munro Cup (group or individual WI flower competition)

José Smart Award (individual flower competition)

A reminder of the other closing dates for the ACM Competitions:

Federation Art Trophy 2026—paintings to be received at WI House no later than 5th March 2026

Edith Buckley Poetry Competition 2026—entries to be received at WI House by 19th March 2026

Margaret Johnston Trophy Competition—entries to be received at WI House by 28th March 2026

Secretaries/Treasurers—Don't leave your booking until the closing date.

You can add to the booking by phone at a later date if further members want to attend.

If you want to book as an individual, use the booking form on our website under: [Federation Downloads](#)

—email the form to wihouse@lrfwi.org or call 0116 2661342.

If you want to book with your WI, please contact your Secretary or Treasurer

Monthly Draw

Congratulations to our Monthly Draw winners!

January 2026

1st Prize £25—Linda Lawson—Thorpe Acre WI

2nd Prize £15—Lorna Williams—QE WI

3rd Prize £10—Sandra Smart—Astill Lodge WI

Thank you to all of the members who have supported the Federation by buying a Monthly Draw ticket!



Country Markets

Glenfield Market returns to St Peter's Church, Glenfield on 23rd January, 9 – 11am, after a well earned Christmas break. We will be selling our usual delicious cakes and preserves, hand made crafts and locally grown produce and plants as well as serving refreshments including bacon rolls and soup. We will be at the ACM on 28th



March so don't forget to visit us to stock up with home made jams, chutneys and cakes!

This is a special year for us as we are marking 50 years of Country Markets in Glenfield. We are planning special mornings to celebrate this amazing anniversary to which everyone is invited. Keep an eye on our Facebook page for more information.



We would also like to invite you to our Craft Fair on Saturday 9th May held at Groby Village Hall where you will find all our usual items for sale plus some local crafters for more variety. We're there 10am – 4pm. Refreshments are served all day.

Leicestershire and Rutland Country Markets are an excellent way to sell your baking, preserves, crafts and garden produce. You might have a group of friends who would like to sell their excess produce. We can help you to start a market in your area. You don't have to be a WI member to be part of Country Markets, just over 16 years of age. Come along and talk

to us at the ACM, or on a Friday at Glenfield, or email Susan at glenfieldmarket@gmail.com.

Around the Counties

Witherley WI

Nina welcomed members, including new member, Alison T, to the first meeting of the New Year. The meeting was very well attended.

The Christmas Meal held at the Green Room in Hinckley was very enjoyable. The food was lovely and the entertainment provided by singer, Ben Morrison, was excellent. The Christmas Raffle was very successful. Many thanks to Eileen F for all her hard work in organising it.

Forthcoming events for members to look forward to include, a visit to Hotters in January, St Giles Hospice Quiz in March, 'Agatha Crusty, the Village Hall Murders' performed by Baddersley Amateur Theatrical Society, also, in March and an open air performance of 'Anything Goes' at Kilworth House in July. We are particularly looking forward to the BATS performance which will include three new actors. The Annual Council Meeting will be held in March at Leicester Grammar School.

WI Resolution voting slips were handed out, with members being asked to choose the resolution that they would like to go forward to the Federation. The five resolutions were Accessible Public Toilet Facilities, Action on Women's Homelessness, Nearer to Nature, Love Your Vulva and Every Child Needs a Friend.

Our speaker this month was John Parnell who talked about and demonstrated circus skills. Did you know that the circus was invented in England in 1668 by a man called Phillip Astley who trained horses and riders? It was initially called Astley's Ride. John demonstrated a variety of juggling skills using balls, clubs, rings and scarves. Sue Downes thanked John for his brilliant talk and demonstration.

Many thanks to Gaynor B, Gay F, Pat F and Ann W for the lovely sandwiches and cakes which followed.

Next month's speaker, Sheila Johnston, will be talking about the Atherstone Shrove Tuesday Ball Game. The meeting will be held in the Parish Rooms at 7.30pm on February 3rd. Visitors and new members are always welcome at our friendly WI.

Hinckley Canalside WI



At our January meeting, we had Ian Retson from The Woodland Trust to talk to us about the local woodlands and why trees are so important to the environment. The aim of the Woodland Trust is to have woodlands within easy access to everyone. They acquire large areas of land for trees, and they encourage landowners and builders to plant new trees. He told us about the animals, birds and insects that live in the woods in the UK and the flowers, plants and fungi that flourish in them, illustrating his talk with slides.

Anstey WI

The new year got off to a fine start for Anstey WI. Kyle Newman came to talk about Musical Memory Box. A life long singing enthusiast, she explained how she set up a singing for the brain group from scratch in Leicester, at the behest of the Alzheimer's Society. In view of Leicester's ethnic mix, she sought help from an Indian lady who still runs some groups. After the funding ran out she started having to fundraise as well.

Kyle spoke of the physical demands of singing and how it works, and had us doing warm up exercises as well as singing a little, although your correspondent would have enjoyed more. Singing is good for physical and mental health too, so we can all benefit. She had us all engaged and entertained, and we agreed it had been an excellent evening.

The competition, for a musical item, was won by Sue Crooks, with Sheryl Bramley and Heather Bostock tied in second place.

Broughton Astley WI

Our first meeting of the New Year was well attended and members had lots to chat and catch up about during our social time. Our January speaker was David McDowell, The Bee Farmer, who gave us a fascinating talk about Bees. His interest in Bees started as a hobby when he was a young man but eventually became his living and he now farms a 100 hives. As well as giving talks he works with school children, trains



Bee Keepers and has many other associated Bee activities. Our members had lots of questions and enjoyed the talk and lots of honey was bought.

Ullesthorpe WI

At the annual meeting in November the Committee welcomed two new members, Sheila Jones and Frances Smith and thanked two retiring ladies Pat Iliffe and Jacqui Patstone.

December was a busy month making Christmas crafts. We enjoyed a Wreath making session and with the help of crafter Carolyn Boulter we made Christmas tree heart decorations.

2026 is a very special year for us as we will celebrate 100 years of being a successful WI in Ullesthorpe. We first started as a joint group of 50 in the Memorial Hall with Wibtoft and Claybrooke in August 1925. However, in December 1926 it was decided to form the Ullesthorpe WI as a separate Branch. Mrs Seal from



Claybrooke House was the first President.

Claybrooke and Wibtoft remained a separate branch. We are trying to research our history. If anyone has any information or photographs, please get in touch.

We now have 45 members and membership is growing.



We started our year of celebration with a dinner in the Memorial Hall at our January Meeting. Friends and family joined us. Wycliffe Caterers provided an excellent 3 course dinner.

We aim to do something special each month. In March we will learn all about Reiki.

New members always welcome. Second Thursday each month at 2pm.

Around the Counties

Glenfield WI



For our first meeting of the New Year, we welcomed back John Noble for more 'Tales of a Postman'. John entertained us once again with many amusing anecdotes of the time he delivered mail to relatively isolated homes and farms in rural Scotland. Apparently, it wasn't unusual for a cooked breakfast to be waiting on the kitchen table for him at some farmhouses. Obviously, those really were the days!! Sadly, times are changing and our postal service is now concentrating more on the delivery of parcels as digital communication has taken preference to the writing of letters. John told us that in Denmark all letter post ceased on December 31st 2025, the focus of their main postal service Post Nord, now being on parcels. There are just a few private companies who will continue to handle physical letters which must be dropped off at kiosks rather than put into letter boxes. We were left to wonder if that is the future of our own postal delivery service.

The afternoon continued with a small celebration for our 104th Birthday! The cake which had been baked and decorated by two members for the occasion was cut by our oldest member, Ruby Day. After which everyone enjoyed a delicious slice of cake during the social time.

Our February meeting will include a talk by Dave Andrews on 100 Years of the BBC. This will take place at St Peter's Church Centre on Wednesday 11th February. 2-4pm. There is no meeting in March as we again celebrate our Birthday with a prebooked meal.

Glenfield WI meet every second Wednesday in the month at St Peter's Church Centre, 2-4pm. There is a small charge of £4 for visitors, but you will be made very welcome, so do come along and join us.



Little Bowden WI



For their January meeting, ladies of Little Bowden enjoyed a fabulously fun and energetic evening to welcome the New Year in style to an old Broadway

classic, All that Jazz. Top hats were raised, legs kicked and hands shaken out as local dance and fitness instructor, Charlie took us through the dance steps and routine. The perfect way to kick off 2026!



Cossington WI



For the New Year we have a new home for our meetings as we had out grown our village hall and moved to Cossington School Hall.

Our first meeting was learning about CPR, following with a demonstration by 2 of our members. We followed on learning about defibrillators and how to use them. To finish there was a demonstration on helping someone choking. Members were given a chance to ask questions. Our members felt they had learnt so much.



Groby WI

The speaker at our January meeting was Richard Warren talking about the 'Streets of Leicester' and the origins of their street names. Richard was a policeman based at Charles Street for thirty years and spent much of his work life walking the streets of Leicester with the walking continuing after his retirement. Medieval Leicester lay within the old Roman walls. The town walls followed the lines of what are now Soar Lane, Sanvey Gate, Church Gate, Gallowtree Gate, Horsefair Street and Bath Lane. Four fortress like gates provided the main entrances into the town known as North Gate, East Gate, South Gate and West Gate. There has been 2000 years of continuous habitants in Leicester with an Iron Age settlement at West Bridge. The River Soar was known as the River Ligor and the settlement known as Caester resulting in the name Leicester. In the year 878 King Alfred the Great defeated Viking leader Guthrum at the Battle of Edington, leading to a treaty (known as 'Danelaw') that divided England. Alfred had southern England whilst Guthrum had the north. The Vikings were very influential in Leicester and encouraged the Saxons to integrate. Their two languages merged and the language known as English was started in Leicester although it was more like the English that was used by Geoffrey Chaucer than the English that we are familiar with. Words ending in 'by' are Viking words and means 'local', e.g. Groby. The Danish for words ending in 'gate' translates as 'street' as is illustrated by the slide above showing familiar Leicester street names.

As far back as 1305 there was a street called Gosewellgate which, in the 18th century, was renamed Haymarket as the sale of hay and straw was moved to this location. This area developed into a significant commercial hub which eventually became the Haymarket Shopping Centre and theatre. In 1086 the Domesday Book names the marketplace as 'Cheapside'. Cheapside is derived from the Danish word 'chepe' meaning sell. Gallowtree Gate was named after the road that led to the gallows. Loseby Lane was named after Henry de Loseby, a 14th century landowner and there is a tunnel from what was the Crown and Thistle Pub (now O'Neills) to Leicester Cathedral. The cattle market was held here in the middle ages. Cank Street (originally known as Cankwell Street) is thought to have been named after the public well that lay there although 'cank' is Danish for chattering and it is thought that ladies would congregate there for their daily gossip! Butt Close Lane was the site of the town's archery butts and still has a small part of the original town wall. Friar Lane runs alongside the site of a Franciscan friary occupied by friars who were called the 'Grey Friars'. Holy Bones was probably derived from the discarded animal bones from the butchers trading close to St Nicholas Church. The first slide shows High Street in 1902 after it had been widened from only seven foot. It's original name was Swine Market as there was a pig market near Silver Street. Silver Street was called Krygate which meant a street next to the church. Belvoir Street was originally Cat Pye Gardens as Leicester had seven cat abattoirs, using the furs to make garments!

In 1868 Leicester had the first traffic island in the UK, as pictured above.

We now know this as the Clock Tower but it was originally called the Haymarket Memorial Tower and Richard mentioned that huge sewers run directly underneath



Great Bowden WI

For our January 2026 meeting the Great Bowden WI decided to arrange a lunch instead of the usual afternoon tea at a local restaurant. The venue decided upon was the Langton Greenhouse Café just outside Market



Harborough. Fortunately it was a dry day with no snow on the ground as had been the case in the previous days, although it was still cold.

The café was wonderfully warm and welcoming. The conversation was lively as we all had plenty of news to catch up on after the Christmas holidays. Food and drink were ordered individually which worked out very well with everyone finding something to their taste. The portions were generous and well prepared so this idea of a lunch is something we could repeat in the future.

Peatling Magna WI

The ladies of Peatling Magna WI held a very enjoyable meeting on Mon 2nd Feb 2026. We purchased 8 inch wreath rings, which were only a few pence each then asked members to find out all of their scrap of old fabric and cut them into 1inch wide strips, 6 inches long. A lot of ladies were willing to share fabric strips with everyone. We then sat round a big table, having a right good chat whilst we tied the fabric onto the rings to create wonderfully colourful wreaths to take home. Everyone had a lovely time and it was a very cheap activity that everyone could join in with.

We'd love to hear what you've been working on! Please send in a short article about what you've been up to lately and any exciting plans or events you have coming up. Sharing your updates helps keep everyone connected and inspired—so don't be shy, we can't wait to celebrate your news!

Around the Counties

Whissendine WI

January marks the start of our centenary year, it is amazing to think that Whissendine WI first started in 1926, originally in someone's house we believe. We are celebrating with various events throughout the year but to start things off we are giving each member a hand printed tote bag. These have been made for us by Heidi Marshall, formerly of Whissendine, through her business Dukki Gifts, and are excellent quality!

At each meeting during the year one of us is giving a five minute talk about an inspirational woman from the last 100 years and Jean Penny started this off at the January meeting with her talk about Emmeline Pankhurst.

Then it was time for Rosie and Caroline's House of Games, a fun night of quizzing based on Richard Osman's programme of the same name. There were four teams of four, Odds and Ends, Haven't Got a Clue, the Dream Team and The Four Candles. This is the fifth year of this quiz and it just gets better, this year we had a round with BUZZERS! Ours sounded like a police siren! We had to work out the connection between three words with the letters appearing on the screen one by one, from z to a. Another round was a memory round where we were shown a photo of Rosie's junk, ten objects which were the answers to questions but we only had fifteen seconds to look at it. Thankfully there wasn't a geography round this year but we were given a round called I'm Useless at Dating where we had to write down a date for different events in history and hold them up one by one.

When the final scores were added up I was amazed to find our team won! We were the four candles, Pat, Joan, Lindsey and me, Jill. We did well on the dates and I have to thank the superb knowledge of my team mates for that! I also have to thank Rosie and Caroline who have spent countless hours compiling the quiz, it is a huge effort and so professional with a big screen and everything! And finally I have to say we all had a final play with the buzzers, giggling like school children till teacher Rosie came and took them away but she has promised us we can play with them again next year, hurray!



Charnwood WIGS WI

November

On a Saturday afternoon in a Christmassy decorated room we held our annual Christmas Party. Everyone wore their festive top and upon arrival could have either a glass of alcoholic or non alcoholic fizz. We started with a quiz then got creative making doves for our local church Christmas Tree Festival. The Sing It Happy Choir sang (we did too) and then joined us for a delicious buffet. A quick fire game of 'Left/Right' to make you forget your left and right! We finished with a raffle with one of our ladies winning the 'big prize'. A fabulous time was had by all.

Our last meeting of the year was with the brilliant Baroness Bolsover. This was a Free Open meeting and we had 20+ visitors joining us. The committee ladies made cakes for us all (always delicious). We were asked to bring a china cup and saucer, napkin and some of us wore a hat.

The baroness entertained and educated us on Victorian Afternoon Tea Etiquette.

Our 1st meeting of the new year was 'Bollywood Dancing'. The lady doing it did a demonstration and it was very interesting to watch and learn about the different types of dances. We were then asked if we wanted to try dancing and with brightly coloured wraps and scarves, some of us had a go.

We practised some dance moves to music and we were quite good at it. We then did 'Seated Bollywood Dancing' which gave everyone the opportunity to join in and it was very enjoyable.

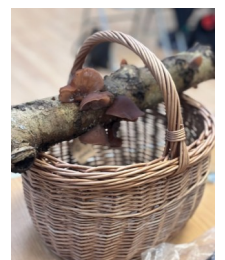
Woodhouse Eaves WI



Members of Woodhouse Eaves WI enjoyed a lively talk by Joanna Richart of Charnwood Foraging, who introduced the idea of "Foraging for Colour." She encouraged trying new plants, noting that humans eat only a fraction of the edible species available. Joanna explained the "four Fs" that can be picked in the wild: fruit, foliage, flowers, and fungi.

She highlighted examples across colours: black, white, green, red, yellow, and silver plants and fungi, showing how each offers unique flavours or uses. She stressed the importance of caution, as some edible species have toxic lookalikes.

Joanna's passion for foraging shone through, as she emphasized both the enjoyment and caution needed when exploring edible plants. She runs local courses to share her knowledge and build a community of fellow foragers. Visit www.charnwoodforaging.co.uk for more information.



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Advertising Rates 2026

Charity rate £5.00

Commercial rate (including WI members business advertising)

Months	1	3	6	12 = 10% off
Small	£16	£47	£95	£171
Medium	£21	£63	£126	£226
Large	£32	£95	£189	£340

Please pay on receipt of invoice only.

Please send material for County News to **WI House** by email: fedsec@lrfwi.org or post to arrive by the **FIRST** of the preceding month at the latest. **Any WI announcements can be made in County News.**

We do not accept any responsibility for any adverts published in County News.



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